

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SS-15 NSC-05 /061 W  
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R 141710Z FEB 75  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0121  
SECDEF WAHSDC  
INFO USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAPE  
USLOSACLANT  
CINCLANT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T USNATO 0830

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC  
SUBJECT: TEXT OF UK COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF NUNN AMENDMENT

REF: USNATO 0741

MISSION PROVIDES BELOW TEXT OF OPENING REMARKS BY UK AMBASSADOR  
PECK AT FEBRUARY 11 NPG PERM REPS MEETING CIRCULATED BY UK  
DELEGATION.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE UK IS GRATEFUL FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
AND OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES, WHICH REPRESENT A VALUABLE  
STEP IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS. ALSO WE GREATLY APPRECIATE  
THE US OFFER BY AMBASSADOR BRUCE FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS BOTH  
BEFORE, AND AFTER, 1 APRIL 1975.

2. I THANK THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SETTING THE SCENE, AND HIS  
PO/75/5 IS VERY HELPFUL IN PROVIDING A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. BUT  
SECRET

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I SUGGEST WE AVOIT A LINE-BY-LINE SCRUTINY OF THE PO AND INSTEAD  
CONCENTRATE ON THE MAIN ISSUES. THEN PERHAPS THE NPG STAFF GROUP  
CAN ENSURE THAT ALL OUR VIEWS ARE DRAFTED INTO WHATEVEE MAY BE  
PREPARED FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE US.

3. LET ME SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT THE UK WELCOMES THE NUNN INITIATIVE AND THE US READINESS TO CONSULT THE ALLIANCE ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF ITS NUCLEAR ASPECTS. OF COURSE, THE US AUTHORITIES KNOW AS WELL AS ANY OF US THE ALLIANCE'S ON-GOING WORK IN THIS FIELD, AND HAVE BROUGHT IT TO THE NOTICE OF CONGRESS. NO DOUBT THEY WILL DO SO AGAIN IN APRIL, AS IS APPROPRIATE. BUT SENATOR NUNN'S AMENDMENT HAS PROVIDED A FRESH IMPETUS, AND WE SHOULD ALL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. WE RECOGNISE THAT AMERICAN NUCLEAR WARHEAD HOLDINGS IN EUROPE DO NOT REFLECT ANY PRECISELY DEFINED OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT, DR SCHLESINGER IN DECEMBER SUGGESTED THAT IN THE 60'S THEY HAD BEEN DOUBLED WITHOUT ANY REALLY LOGICAL REASON - AND THAT THE ALLIANCE'S STUDIES IN RECENT YEARS ON THE USE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS SUGGEST THAT SOME RATIONALISATION AND MODERNISATION IS POSSIBLE IF NOT DESIRABLE, AND REDUCTIONS MAY WELL BE INVOLVED. IT WOULD BE TIMELY FOR A THOROUGH STUDY TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT THIS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT COLLECTIVELY BY THE ALLIANCE, AND THAT THE NPG IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES IS THE RIGHT PLACE TO DO IT.

4. ALSO WE SHOULD NOT OVERLOOK THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MBFR. WE SUPPORT SACEUR'S VIEW THAT ANY REDUCTION OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR WARHEAD HOLDINGS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN AN MBFR FRAMEWORK. OPTION III STILL HANGS OVER OUR HEADS AS A POSSIBLE BARGAINING CARD AND ANY NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN AWAY LIGHTLY. IT FOLLOWS THAT THE TIMING AND CONTENT OF ANY REFERENCE EITHER PUBLICLY OR IN A REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF US NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE POSITION IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

5. IT WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT, IN PROPOSING ANY EVENTUAL CHANGES IN THE ALLIANCE'S TACTICAL NUCLEAR POSTURE, TO BEAR IN MIND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AND POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CREDIBILITY OF THE ALLIANCE'S DETERRENCE. THE PRESENTATIONAL HANDLING OF ANY CHANGES WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL THOUGHT, FOR IN THIS MATTER PUBLIC AND SOVIET PERCEPTIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT.

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END TEXT.  
BRUCE.

SECRET

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**To:** STATE  
SECDEF WAHSDC INFO USCINCEUR  
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